(b) and (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scheme for increasing agricultural production in Madhya Pradesh

*532. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent under Centrally-sponsored schemes for farmers to increase agricultural production in Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of farmers benefited; and

(c) the steps contemplated in this regard during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) An amount of Rs. 292 crores was released to Government of Madhya Pradesh for implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of crops, horticulture, rainfed farming, etc.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes were aimed at raising agricultural productivity and production the benefits of which flow to farmers both in a direct and indirect manner. Details of number of beneficiaries under some of the Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes during Eighth Plan are given below:—

S. No.	Name of Scheme	No. of beneficiaries
1.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers.	1622
2.	Exchange of farmers	278
3.	Farmer Scientist Interaction	1491
4.	Oilseeds Production Programme	375326
5.	National Pulses Development Programme	386648
6.	Special Scheme for SC/ST	17589
7.	Integrated Pest Management	8956

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan has not been finalised.

Decline in ground water level in Gujarat

*533. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that level of ground water in most of Gujarat has gone down considerably and situation has become alarming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the declining trend in ground water levels in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a decline of upto 10.6 metres in shallow ground water and upto 50.37 metres in the level of deeper ground water in some parts of the State of Gujarat. Due to steep fall in the level of ground water from 12 to 50 metres, the situation in some parts of Gujarat including the districts of Mehsana, Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad has become alarming.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of fall in the level of shallow and deeper ground water in various parts of the State are as indicated in the following table:—

Decline in the level of ground water in some parts of Gujarat during 1989—98

Sl. No.	District	Fall in the level of shallow ground water (in metres)	Fall in the level of deeper ground water (in metres)
1.	Ahmedabad	0.73 to 2.5	12.9
2.	Amreli	0.52 to 6.61	3.18 to 7.12
3.	Banaskantha	0.68 to 9.44	26.3
4.	Bhavnagar	0.55 to 10.25	—
5.	Gandhinagar	—	1.9 to 12.42
6.	Junagadh	0.18 to 10.61	—
7.	Jamnagar	7.57	—
8.	Kutch	0.22 to 6.89	—
9.	Mesana	2.71	0.57 to 50.37
10.	Rajkot	0.8 to 6.03	—
11.	Surat	0.46 to 3.52	—
12.	Surendranagar	0.13 to 6.6	—

(e) Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to take steps to check the declining trend in the level of ground water. However, the Central Government have also taken some measures in this direction which include the following:

(1) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has been holding periodicial meetings to, *inter-alia*, advise the State Governments to take suitable measures to check over exploitation in view of decline in the level of ground water. It has also taken various measures for creating mass awareness on the subject.

(2) Holding meetings with the representatives of State Governments/ Union Territories, including the State of Gujarat, at various levels to discuss ways and means to tackle the problem of over exploitation and decline in the level of ground water.

(3) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(4) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/ Union Territories to enable them to undertake area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.

(5) Central Ground Water Board had carried out studies under the UNDP assisted Pilot Artificial Recharge Project in Gujarat in 1981—85. The results of the findings were made available to the state Government for implementation.

(6) Central Ground Water Board has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the state government, including the state of Gujarat, in recharge of ground water at a total cost of Rs. 101.50 crore under the 9th Plan.

(7) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Project is being implemented in the State of Gujarat with 100% assistance including 50% grant and 50% loan to the State. The scheme aims at development of forest, agriculture and wasteland in the selected catchment in the State. During 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 80 lakh has been released against an allocation of Rs. 380 lakh.